

METHOD FOR TRANSFERRING AND DISPLAYING
DATA PAGES ON A DATA NETWORK

Abstract of the Disclosure

The apparent speed of a connection between a browser at a user station and a proxy or gateway on a network such as the Internet is increased by providing a local proxy at the user station which interacts with a remote proxy. While the remote proxy is retrieving a newly requested World Wide Web page, for example, from the appropriate content provider, it may also be sending to the local proxy a stale cached version of that page. When the new version of the page is finally retrieved, the remote proxy determines the differences between the new version and the stale version, and, assuming the differences do not exceed the new page in size, sends the differences to the local proxy which then reconstructs the new page from the differences and the stale version. The local proxy delivers the new page to the browser, which need not even be aware that a local proxy exists; it is aware only that it received the page it requested. Because computational speed and power are frequently higher and cheaper than transmission speed, the apparent speed of the connection between the user station and the network has been increased at modest cost.

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